

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 12, 13, 28, and 33 have been canceled herein without prejudice and claims 1, 15-17, 21, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 34 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14-27, 29-32, and 34 are currently pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1, 15-17, 21, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 34 do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

Otherwise, Applicant respectfully traverses all claim rejections for the reasons that follow.

I. CLAIM SUGGESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

The Examiner asserts that certain terminology in claims 12 and 28 does not appear to further limit the claims, and that certain terminology in claim 17 should be modified. The Examiner has also objected to claim 31 for reciting "thought" instead of "through"

Applicant has canceled claims 12 and 28 herein without prejudice, has amended claim 17 to recite a "restraining leg," and has amended claim 31 to recite "through." The amendments to claims 17 and 31 were not made for purposes of patentability or to avoid the prior art, but rather were made to correct for the inadvertent use of certain terms.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is kindly requested that the objection to claim 31 be withdrawn.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 21-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 21-34 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claims 20 and 21 are mutually exclusive and, as such, the straight restraining leg of claim 20 should not be further defined as "non-linear" in dependent claim 21.

Claims 28 and 33 have been canceled herein, thereby mooting the rejection of these claims. Otherwise, Applicant has amended claim 21 to depend from claim 19. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 21 were not made for purposes of patentability or to avoid

the prior art, but rather to correct for an inadvertent dependency of claim 21 on claim 20, when dependency on claim 19 was intended.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21, as well as dependent claims 22-27, 29-32, and 34 are definite. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 21-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-30 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 14-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,545,639 to Holden (hereinafter "Holden"); claims 1-4, 7-12, and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 2000-348699 to Takeshi (hereinafter "Takeshi"); claims 1-4, 7-12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 6-104041 to Chihiro (hereinafter "Chihiro"); claims 1-12 and 14-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 2001-84979 to Akihiro et al. (hereinafter "Akihiro"); and claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 9-120807 to Takashi (hereinafter "Takashi").

Claims 12, 13, and 28 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting the rejections of these claims. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that none of Holden, Takeshi, Chihiro, Akihiro, and Takashi, individually discloses "a torsional region having first and second ends, and **extending substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends**," as recited in claim 1 and 15.

The Examiner disagrees and asserts that various elements of the cited prior art references disclose these features. However, each of the elements identified by the Examiner does not "[extend] substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region]."

Regarding Holden, the Examiner asserts that torsion spring 50 having spring sections 52 and 54 provides torsional force. (Holden, col. 3, lines 5-25). However, since spring sections 52 and 54 are provided by "approximately 5 turns," spring 50 simply does not "[extend] substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region,]" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner also asserts that Figure 2 of Takeshi discloses the torsional region of claims 1 and 15. However, as is clear from Figure 2, the torsional region includes a number of

turns between legs 4b and 4c and, as such, does not "[extend] substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region,]" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner also asserts that portion 54a of Chihiro discloses the torsional region of claims 1 and 15. However, as is clear from Figure 2 of Chihiro, portion 54a is formed of a loop and, as such, does not "[extend] substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region,]" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner also asserts that portion 3 of Akihiro discloses the torsional region of claims 1 and 15. However, as is clear from Figures 1 and 6 of Akihiro, portion 3 includes a number of turns and, as such, does not "[extend] substantially straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region,]" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner also asserts that portion 9b of Takashi discloses the torsional region of claims 1 and 15. However, as is clear from Figures 7 of Takashi, portion 9b includes a bend and, as such, does not "[extend] straight along an axis between the first and second ends [of the torsional region,]" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Holden, Takeshi, Chihiro, Akihiro, and Takashi considered individually. Furthermore, since claims 2-11, and 14 ultimately depend from claim 1, and since claims 16-27, 29, and 30 ultimately depend from claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over Holden, Takeshi, Chihiro, Akihiro, and Takashi for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

IV. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,607,795 to Saida (hereinafter "Saida"). Respectfully, Applicant traverses.

Claims 12, 13, 28, and 33 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooted the rejections of these claims. Otherwise, Saida discloses a terminal 3 including an M-shaped body portion, intermediate portion 31, and two bent end portions 32 for contacting an electrode 41 on a circuit board 4. (Saida, col. 3, lines 12-29, 42-54). As characterized, intermediate portion 31 extends from the two portions of terminal 3 for contacting a terminal of a battery 5. Specifically, portion 31 extends from both end portions 32. As such, Saida simply does not disclose "a battery terminal contact region extending from the torsional region only at said first end of said torsional region," as recited in claims 1 and 15.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Saida. Furthermore, since claims 2-11, and 14 ultimately depend from claim 1, and since claims 16-27, 29, 30-32, and 34 ultimately depend from claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over Saida for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

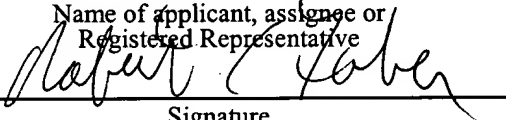
V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are currently in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 17, 2004

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Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

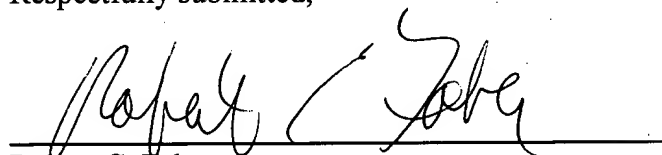


Signature

May 17, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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